

Message Text

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PAGE 01 AMMAN 02939 240858Z

ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION

1. AD-DUSTOUR MAY 23 EDITORIALY COMMENTED ON THE DECISIVE FAHD/CARTER MEETING IN WASHINGTON: "BECAUSE SAUDI ARABIA HAD CONVINCED THE ARAB COUNTRIES TO GIVE AMERICA A LAST CHANCE TO TRY ITS LUCK IN BUDGING THE ISRAELI OCCUPATION FROM ARAB LAND. ((THEREFORE) AMERICA IS ETHICALLY OBLIGED TO LET THE ARABS KNOW THE RESULTS OF ITS ENDEAVORS SO FAR WHETHER POSITIVE OR NEGATIVE."

2. "SAUDI ARABIA IS THE COUNTRY THAT PUTS ITS WEIGHT AND CONFIDENCE IN THE POSSIBILITY OF A CHANGE IN AMERICAN POLICY SO AS TO BE MORE EVEN-HANDED IN THE ARAB'S CONFLICT WITH ISRAEL. IN THIS ENDEAVOR SAUDI ARABIA WENT TO THE EXTENT OF ANTAGONISING ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH IRAN AND OPEC COUNTRIES SO AS TO PROTECT THE AMERICAN ECNOMY AND THE ECONOMIES OF ITS ALLIES IN EUROPE AND JAPAN."

3. THE PAPER CONCLUDES BY ASKING THE ARABS "TO WAIT FOR THE RESULTS OF THEEXCITING MEETING WHICH WILL BE HELD BETWEEN THE OIL VICEROY AND THE KING OF ISRAEL."

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4. IN AN EDIT AS-SHA'AB MAY 23 SAID: "FAHD'S VISIT HAS A SPECIAL IMPORTANCE FOR TWO REASONS (A) THE RECENT POLITICAL CHANGE IN ISRAEL AND (B) THE SPECIAL RELATIONS THAT EXIST BETWEEN SAUDI ARABIA AND U.S. (THEREFORE) CARTER HAS TO TAKE A CLEAR AND FRANK STAND VIS-A-VIS THE PRINCIPLE OF OCCUPATION AND LAND ANNEXATION ESPECIALLY THAT THE U.S. AND THE SOVIET UNION HAVE OUTLINED YESTERDAY THE POLICY OF DETENTE RELATED TO MANY

URGENT PROBLEMS PRIMARILY THE PROBLEM OF DISARMAMENT IN THE M.E."

5. THE PAPER COCLUDES BY EXPRESSING THE HOPE THAT "PRINCE FAHD
WHO IS THE BEST PERSON FOR THE TASK WILL CLARIFY THE AMERICAN POLICY
AND AMERICQA'S STAND VIS-A-VIS THE RECENT DEVELOPMENTS."
FOSTER

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